

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

Claims 1-9, 11-30 and 32-41 have been previously examined. Claims 1, 13 and 30 have been amended. No claims have been added or cancelled. Thus, claims 1-9, 11-30 and 32-41 are presented for examination.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 11/10/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues with respect to claims 1-9, 11-30 and 32-41 that Daughtrey does not teach or suggest, "simultaneously providing a plurality of flexible date search options to a user". The Examiner disagrees. As an initial matter, Applicant's Fig. 3, in the original specification as filed describes: "Option 1" Weekends. This enables a user to search by month "Option 2" Bonus Days. This enables a user to search by dates including a number of days before or after a specified date. Finally there is "Option 3" Flexible Stays. This option enables a user to enter the amount of days they want to take a trip and a date range in which to take the trip. The Examiner is assuming that these individually searchable options available in the alternative are what Applicant views as "simultaneously providing a plurality of flexible date search options to a user".

Much like Applicant's Fig. 3, Daughtrey's Fig. 2 enables a user to enter the amount of days they want to take a trip (i.e about a week or 7 days) and a date range (earliest departure date plus the trip length) in which to take the trip. This option at the very least can be reasonably construed as one option, as a user can merely enter this

information and the "To" and "From" information, click "GO" and generate results. Paragraph 41e also has an option available in the alternative entitled "Show Advanced Options". This is denoted as a drop down menu with various choices such as "one weekend", "one long weekend" and "weekend to weekend". Clicking this would not only simultaneously provide a plurality of options, it would also enable a user to choose, in the alternative, to search with user specific options as described in Daughtrey para. 33. Applicant's arguments are not persuasive and the rejection is maintained.

Applicant further argues that Daughtrey teaches away from entering a return date. The Examiner disagrees. Applicant argues with respect to claim 1 that Daughtrey teaches away from the claimed invention. Applicant has mischaracterized the reference. Nothing in Daughtrey tends to disparage the entering of a return date or otherwise present it as an unworkable solution. Daughtrey describes that entering four different dates: earliest and latest departure dates and earliest and latest return dates could possibly overburden a system where there are a large number of solutions to the query. This is a dramatic departure from Applicant's allegations that Daughtrey teaches away from entering a return date.

"[T]he prior art's mere disclosure of more than one alternative does not constitute a teaching away from any of these alternatives because such disclosure does not criticize, discredit, or otherwise discourage the solution claimed . . ." In re Fulton, 391 F.3d 1195, 1201, 73 USPQ2d 1141, 1146 (Fed. Cir. 2004). The disclosure of Daughtrey does not rise to the level of a teaching away. See MPEP §§ 2141.02, 2143.01, and 2145 X.D. for discussion on what constitutes a suitable teaching away.

Applicant further argues that Daughtrey was incorrectly relied upon to teach a user entered trip date interval. Applicant has mischaracterized the rejection. The rejection clearly states that a user trip date interval is taught in Fig. 2. It then goes on to disclose that Daughtrey does not teach a user trip date interval comprising a user entered return date. Kwoh is then introduced to remedy this deficiency. This is the order in which the subject matter is presented in the claims as filed. It goes from broad to narrow, at which point a secondary reference-(Kwoh) is introduced. Applicant is advised to review the most previous Office Action, dated, 06/10/2009 in it's entirety.

Applicant further argues that *In re Aller* is not appropriate because the general conditions of the claim is not disclosed in the prior art. The Examiner disagrees. As Applicant readily admitted, the user entered date in Daughtrey is equal to the period of time between the departure date and the return date. Plainly, the general condition of the claim is shown in that example alone, in addition to Fig. 2 of Daughtrey, and in the Examiner's previous arguments. Applicant's arguments are not persuasive and the rejection is maintained.

Applicant further argues that Daughtrey does not teach receiving a search option selection from a user. The Examiner disagrees. As previously described above, a user of the system of Daughtrey is able to conduct a search with/without simultaneously displayed "advanced options". Further, the plain meaning of the term, "receiving a search option selection from a user" does not require multiple search options to choose from. Although Daughtrey describes at least two options, as the claim is currently presented only one is required. Applicant further argues that Daughtrey does not teach,

"requesting travel date information from the user based on the search option selection:"

The Examiner disagrees. This is obviously done when a user of the system of Daughtrey makes selections and then clicks "GO" to process the query. Applicant continues to argue the claims much more narrowly than recited. Applicant is reminded that claims are given their broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification.

Examiner Note: With the filing of this amendment, Applicant has refuted elements of the claimed invention that are plainly shown in Fig. 2 of Daughtrey and in combination with the combined references. For the Applicant's convenience, the Examiner has attached Daughtrey's Fig. 2 and Applicant's Fig. 3 in an effort to assist the Applicant in distinguishing their claims from the applied prior art references. Applicant's arguments are not persuasive, the rejections are maintained and this action will be properly made **FINAL**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-6, 9, 11-16, 19-20, 29-30 and 32-41 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Daughtrey et al. US Pre Grant Publication No. 2004/0078252 A1 in view of Kwoh et al U.S. Pre-Grant Publication No. 2001/0034625 A1.

3. As per Claims 1 and 29, Daughtrey teaches simultaneously providing a plurality of flexible date search options to a user with a server (see Fig. 2 and para. 31); one of the plurality of flexible date search options comprising performing a search based on a user entered trip date interval and a user entered trip length, the user entered trip date interval comprising a user entered departure date (see Fig. 2)

receiving a search option selection from the user via a network (see Fig. 2 and para. 32 lines 11-13);

requesting travel date information from the user based on the search option selection;

receiving the travel date information from the user via the network (see para. 37);

determining all pairs of departure dates and return dates that satisfy the flexible travel requirements travel date information with an application server (see para. 34 lines 3-5;

Fig. 2 and para. 35 lines 1-3); and identifying and displaying fares for itineraries

corresponding to each of the departure date and return date pairs with a search engine (see para. 46; para. 45 lines 1-5 and Figs. 4 & 5) **and search means for identifying**

itineraries corresponding to said date pairs (see para. 35 lines 1-10); and displaying the fares on a display (see Figs. 4-5).

While Daugherty teaches a the user entered trip date interval comprising user departure date, Daugherty does not explicitly teach the user entered trip date interval comprising a user entered return date. Kwoh teaches a user entering a return date for the purposes of searching for a flight (see para. 48). One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would have found it obvious and recognized that a user entering a return date would have yielded predictable results. i.e. providing search parameters for a travel

search as described in Daughtrey para. 25. While Daughtrey in view of Kwoh teaches the departure date and the trip length is equal to the return date (see Fig. 2-3), Daughtrey does not explicitly teach wherein the user entered trip length is less than a period of time between the user entered departure date and the user entered return date; However, it would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to teach wherein the user entered trip length is less than a period of time between the user entered departure date and the user entered return date because it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art. *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233,235 (CCPA 1955). Furthermore, Applicant has not persuasively demonstrated the criticality of the user entered trip length is less than a period of time between the user entered departure date and the user entered return date versus the departure date and the trip length being equal to the return date taught in Daughtrey in view of Kwoh; see MPEP 2144.05.

4. As per Claim 2, Daughtrey in view of Kwoh teaches the method of claim 1 as described above. Daughtrey further teaches wherein the itineraries are air travel itineraries (see para. 22 lines 3-6).
5. As per Claim 3, Daughtrey in view of Kwoh teaches the method of claim 1 as described above. Daughtrey further teaches wherein travel date information comprises a date interval during which a weekend trip is desired (see para. 33 lines 1-7).
6. As per Claim 4, Daughtrey in view of Kwoh teaches the method of claim 3 as described above. Daughtrey further teaches wherein a weekend trip is defined as a

Thursday, Friday or Saturday departure and a Sunday, Monday or Tuesday return (see para. 33 lines 2-5, Examiner interpreting a Friday or Saturday departure with a stay of 1 or 2 nights as having a Sunday, Monday or Tuesday return).

7. As per Claim 5, Daughtrey in view of Kwoh teaches the method of claim 4 as described above. Daughtrey further teaches wherein the step of determining all pairs of departure dates and return dates comprises identifying all weekends that occur during the date interval, and pairing each possible departure date associated with each possible return date for the corresponding weekend for each weekend that occurs within the date interval (see para. 37 lines 1-4; para. 46 and Fig. 4).

8. As per Claim 6, Daughtrey in view of Kwoh teaches the method of claim 5 as described above. Daughtrey further teaches wherein the date interval comprises a calendar month (see Fig. 4 and para. 33 lines 10-18).

9. As per Claim 9, Daughtrey in view of Kwoh teaches the method of claim 1 as described above. Daughtrey further teaches wherein travel date information comprises said user entered trip date interval and said user entered trip length (see para. 25 lines 1-5; para. 31 lines 5-15 and Fig. 2).

10. As per Claim 11, Daughtrey in view of Kwoh teaches the method of claim 9 as described above. Daughtrey further teaches wherein said user entered trip length is expressed as a numerical value or a numerical range setting forth the desired length of the trip in days (see para. 33 lines 2-5 and 12-18 and Fig. 2).

11. As per Claim 12, Daughtrey teaches the method of claim 9 as described above. Daughtrey further teaches determining all possible departure dates and all possible

return dates within the trip date interval that encompasses a trip of the received trip length and pairing each possible departure date with each possible return date (see para. 35 lines 1-16 and para. 36).

12. As per Claim 13, Daughtrey teaches simultaneously providing a plurality of flexible date search options to a user with a web server (see Fig. 2 and para. 31); one of the plurality of flexible date search options comprising performing a search based on a user entered trip date interval and a user entered trip length, the user entered trip date interval comprising a user entered departure date (see Fig. 2)

receiving a search option selection from the user via a network (see Fig. 2 and para. 32 lines 11-13);

requesting travel date information from the user based on the search option selection;

receiving the travel date information from the user via a network (see para. 37);

identifying one or more departure dates and one or more return dates based on the travel date information with an application server (see para. 37-38), where at least one of said one or more departure date and said one or more return dates comprises more than one date (see para. 25; para. 30 and Fig. 2);

identifying a plurality of date pairs with the application server, each date pair comprising one of said one or more departure dates and one of said one or more return dates (see para. 34 lines 3-5; Fig. 2 and para. 35 lines 1-3);

searching for fares for itineraries corresponding to each date pair with a search engine; and displaying said fares on a display (see para. 35 lines 3-10; para. 46; para. 47 lines 1-5 and Figs. 4 & 5).

While Daugherty teaches a user departure date, Daugherty does not explicitly teach a user entered return date. Kwoh teaches a user entering a return date for the purposes of searching for a flight (see para. 48). One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would have found it obvious and recognized that a user entering a return date would have yielded predictable results. i.e. providing search parameters for a travel search as described in Daughtrey para. 25. While Daughtrey in view of Kwoh teaches the departure date and the trip length is equal to the return date (see Fig. 2-3), Daughtrey does not explicitly teach wherein the user entered trip length is less than a period of time between the user entered departure date and the user entered return date; However, it would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to teach wherein the user entered trip length is less than a period of time between the user entered departure date and the user entered return date because it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art. *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233,235 (CCPA 1955). Furthermore, Applicant has not persuasively demonstrated the criticality of the user entered trip length is less than a period of time between the user entered departure date and the user entered return date versus the departure date and the trip length being equal to the return date taught in Daughtrey in view of Kwoh; see MPEP 2144.05.

13. As per Claim 14, Daughtrey in view of Kwoh teaches the method of claim 13 as described above. Daughtrey further teaches wherein the step of identifying one or more departure dates and one or more return dates further comprises identifying every

weekend within a defined date range, and identifying at least one departure date and at least one return date for each weekend (see para. 35 lines 7-10; para. 37 lines 1-6; para. 46 and Figs. 4 & 5).

14. As per Claim 15, Daughtrey in view of Kwoh teaches the method of claim 14 as described above. Daughtrey further teaches identifying at least one departure date corresponding to at least one of Thursday, Friday and Saturday of each weekend within said defined date range and identifying at least one return date corresponding to at least one of Sunday, Monday and Tuesday for each weekend within said defined date range (see para. 33 lines 2-5, Examiner is interpreting a Friday or Saturday departure with a stay of 1 or 2 nights as having a Sunday, Monday or Tuesday return).

15. As per Claim 16, Daughtrey in view of Kwoh teaches the method of claim 14 as described above. Daughtrey further teaches wherein said defined date range is a calendar month (see para. 33 lines 12-18 and para. 34 lines 3-5).

16. As per Claim 19, Daughtrey in view of Kwoh teaches the method of claim 13 as described above. Daughtrey further teaches wherein the step of identifying one or more departure dates and one or more return dates includes receiving a date range for a trip and receiving a specified trip length (see para. 25 lines 2-5; para. 31 lines 5-15 and Fig. 2), wherein the one or more departure dates are identified as every departure date within said date range which can accommodate a trip of the specified trip length within said date range (see para. 25 lines 2-5 and para. 31 lines 5-12).

17. As per Claim 20, Daughtrey in view of Kwoh teaches the method of claim 13 as described above. Daughtrey further teaches receiving a date range and receiving a

specified trip length (see para. 25 lines 2-5; para. 31 lines 5-15 and Fig. 2), wherein the one or more return dates are identified as every return date within said date range which can accommodate a trip of the specified trip length within said date range (see para. 25 lines 2-5 and Figs. 4 & 5).

18. As per Claim 30, Daughtrey teaches receiving travel date information from the user via a network (see para. 22 and para. 24); the travel date information comprising a trip date range (see Fig. 2, Examiner is interpreting October 10-Oct 17 as a range), the trip date range comprising a user specified earliest departure date (see para. 31 and Fig. 2), and a trip length (see Fig. 2);

determining all pairs of departure dates and return dates that satisfy the travel date information with an application server (see para. 25 and para. 35);

and identifying and displaying fares for itineraries corresponding to each of the departure date and return date pairs with a search engine (see para. 35 and 37);

displaying the fares on a display (see Fig. 3-4) While Daugherty teaches a the user entered trip date interval comprising user departure date, Daugherty does not explicitly teach the user entered trip date interval comprising a user entered return date. Kwoh teaches a user entering a return date for the purposes of searching for a flight (see para. 48). One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would have found it obvious and recognized that a user entering a return date would have yielded predictable results. i.e. providing search parameters for a travel search as described in Daughtrey para. 25. While Daughtrey in view of Kwoh teaches the departure date and the trip length is equal to the return date (see Fig. 2-3), Daughtrey does not explicitly

teach wherein the user entered trip length is less the trip date range; However, it would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to teach the user entered trip length is less the trip date range because it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art. *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233,235 (CCPA 1955). Furthermore, Applicant has not persuasively demonstrated the criticality of the user entered trip length is less the trip date range date versus the departure date and the trip length being equal to the return date taught in Daughtrey in view of Kwoh; see MPEP 2144.05.

19. As per Claim 32, Daughtrey in view of Kwoh teaches the method of claim 30 as described above. Daughtrey further teaches wherein said trip length is expressed as a numerical value or a numerical range setting forth the desired length of the trip in days (see Fig. 2)

20. As per Claim 33, Daughtrey in view of Kwoh teaches the method of claim 30 as described above. Daughtrey further teaches determining all possible departure dates and all possible return dates within the trip date range that encompass a trip of the received trip length;

21. As per Claim 34, 37 and 40, Daughtrey teaches the method of claim 13 as described above. Daughtrey further teaches wherein, when said user entered trip length is expressed as a numerical range (see Fig. 2), said numerical range comprises a minimum period of time and a maximum period of time (see Fig. 2). While Daughtrey in view of Kwoh teaches the departure date and the trip length is equal to the return date

(see Fig. 2-3), Daughtrey does not explicitly teach wherein the minimum period of time of the numerical range is less than said period of time between the user entered departure date and the user entered return date; however, it would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to teach wherein the minimum period of time of the numerical range is less than said period of time between the user entered departure date and the user entered return date, because it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art. *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233,235 (CCPA 1955). Furthermore, Applicant has not persuasively demonstrated the criticality wherein the minimum period of time of the numerical range is less than said period of time between the user entered departure date and the user entered return date versus the departure date and the trip length being equal to the return date taught in Daughtrey in view of Kwoh; see MPEP 2144.05.

22. As per Claim 35 and 38, Daughtrey in view of Kwoh teaches the method of claim 1 as described above. Daughtrey further teaches wherein travel date information comprises said user entered trip date interval and said user entered trip length (see para. 25 lines 1-5; para. 31 lines 5-15 and Fig. 2).

23. As per Claim 36 and 39, Daughtrey teaches the method of claim 13 as described above. Daughtrey further teaches wherein said user entered trip length is expressed as a numerical value or a numerical range setting forth the desired length of the trip in days (see Fig. 2).

24. As per Claim 41, Daughtrey teaches the method of claim 13 as described above. Daughtrey further teaches wherein, when said user entered trip length is expressed as a numerical range (see Fig. 2), said numerical range comprises a minimum period of time and a maximum period of time (see Fig. 2). While Daughtrey in view of Kwoh teaches the departure date and the trip length is equal to the return date (see Fig. 2-3), Daughtrey does not explicitly teach wherein the minimum period of time of the numerical range is less than said trip date range; however, it would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to teach wherein the minimum period of time of the numerical range is less than said trip date range because it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art. *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233,235 (CCPA 1955). Furthermore, Applicant has not persuasively demonstrated the criticality of wherein the minimum period of time of the numerical range is less than said trip date range versus the departure date and the trip length being equal to the return date taught in Daughtrey in view of Kwoh; see MPEP 2144.05.

25. Claims 7-8 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Daughtrey et al. US Pre-Grant Publication No. 2004/0078252 A1 in view of Kwoh et al U.S. Pre-Grant Publication No. 2001/0034625 A1 in further view of Keller et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,304,850 B1.

26. As per Claim 7, Daughtrey teaches the method of claim 1 as described above. Daughtrey further teaches, receiving a desired departure date, a desired return date (see para. 25 lines 2-5 and Fig. 2); Daughtrey does not explicitly teach and at least one

of a specified number of days preceding said desired departure date, a specified number of days following said departure date; a specified number of days preceding said desired return date, and a specified number of days following said desired return date. Keller teaches, at step 105, the user may indicate whether her travel plans are flexible, such that the user may depart or return from one to three days before or after the entered travel dates. If the user's plans are flexible, the user will indicate whether the flexibility is respect to the date of departure or date of return, and will indicate the number of days either before or after the inputted date of travel. (see Col. 3 lines 21-30). It would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the method of Daughtrey to include receiving at least one of a specified number of days preceding said desired departure date, a specified number of days following said departure date; a specified number of days preceding said desired return date, and a specified number of days following said desired return date in order to allow a user to enter the level of flexibility in their plans, as taught in Keller Col. 3 lines 1-3.

27. As per Claim 8, Daughtrey teaches the method of claim 1 as described above. Daughtrey further teaches wherein the step of determining all pairs of departure and return dates satisfying said flexible travel requirements comprises identifying all possible departure dates based on the desired departure date and the specified number of acceptable days preceding the desired departure date and the number of acceptable travel days following said desired departure date; identifying all possible return dates based on the desired return date and the specified number of acceptable travel days

preceding the desired return date and the number of acceptable travel days following the desired return date; and pairing each possible departure date with each possible return date. Keller teaches, at step 105, the user may indicate whether her travel plans are flexible, such that the user may depart or return from one to three days before or after the entered travel dates. If the user's plans are flexible, the user will indicate whether the flexibility is respect to the date of departure or date of return, and will indicate the number of days either before or after the inputted date of travel. If the user is not flexible, the user will enter "not flexible" in the appropriate line on the web page. and at step 107, the user requests the booking server to initiate a search for a flight meeting the entered information, which is at or below the user's indicated target price (see Col. 3 lines 21-30 and 32-35). It would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the method of Daughtrey to include the method of Keller in order to allow a user to book a flight based on their specified preferences, as taught in Keller Col. 3 lines 39-42 and 48-53).

28. As per Claim 17, Daughtrey teaches the method of claim 13 as described above. Daughtrey does not explicitly teach wherein the step of identifying one or more departure dates and one or more return dates includes receiving a specified departure date and a range of days preceding and/or following said specified departure date. Keller teaches, at step 105, the user may indicate whether her travel plans are flexible, such that the user may depart or return from one to three days before or after the entered travel dates. If the user's plans are flexible, the user will indicate whether the flexibility is respect to the date of departure or date of return, and will indicate the

number of days either before or after the inputted date of travel. If the user is not flexible, the user will enter "not flexible" in the appropriate line on the web page (see Col. 3 lines 21-30). It would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the method of Daughtrey to include wherein the step of identifying one or more departure dates and one or more return dates includes receiving a specified departure date and a range of days preceding and/or following said specified departure date in order to allow a user to enter the level of flexibility in their plans, as taught in Keller Col. 3 lines 1-3).

29. As per Claim 18, Daughtrey teaches the method of claim 13 as described above. Daughtrey does not explicitly teach wherein the step of identifying one or more departure dates and one or more return dates includes receiving a specified return date and a range of days preceding and/or following said specified return date. Keller teaches, at step 105, the user may indicate whether her travel plans are flexible, such that the user may depart or return from one to three days before or after the entered travel dates. If the user's plans are flexible, the user will indicate whether the flexibility is respect to the date of departure or date of return, and will indicate the number of days either before or after the inputted date of travel. If the user is not flexible, the user will enter "not flexible" in the appropriate line on the web page (see Col. 3 lines 21-30). It would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the method of Daughtrey to include wherein the step of identifying one or more departure dates and one or more return dates includes receiving a specified departure date and a range of days preceding and/or following said specified

departure date in order to allow a user to enter the level of flexibility in their plans, as taught in Keller Col. 3 lines 1-3).

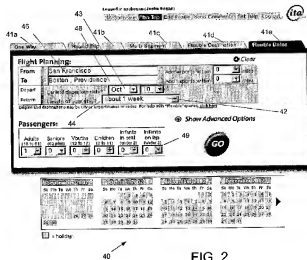


FIG. 2

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FIG. 3

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TONYA JOSEPH whose telephone number is (571)270-1361. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 7:30 am-5:00pm First Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on 571 272 0847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/JOHN W HAYES/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3628